

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 ICA-11
TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 /049 W
-----094262 241045Z /12
R 240959Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6447

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 28198

USOECD

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ESTC, COCOM
SUBJECT: U.S. STRETCH FORM PRESS TO USSR (CYRIL BATH
CASE)

REF: (A) COCOM DOC (78) 108, (B) STATE 210785, (C) PARIS
22715, (D) STATE 127332, (E) PARIS 19326, (F) PARIS 21468

1. SUMMARY: USDEL HAS ASKED UK AND GERMAN DELEGATIONS
TO RECONSIDER THIS CASE AND APPROVE EXPORT WITHOUT
CONDITIONS OR WITHOUT REQUIRING FURTHER END-USE INFOR-
MATION. GERMAN DEL WILL INFORM USDEL OF BONN'S
RESPONSE. AFTER CHECKING WITH LONDON, UKDEL STATES
THAT HIS AUTHORITIES STILL INSIST ON DEFINITE END-
USE INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

2. PURSUANT TO REF B. USDEL CALLED ON ACTING GERMAN
DEL AUGUST 21 TO URGE GERMAN AUTHORITIES TO APPROVE
SUBJECT U.S. CASE WITHOUT HOLDING U.S. TO THE
CONDITIONS THEY HAVE IMPOSED. (GERMANS ARE IN FACT
NO LONGER ON RESERVE. AS INDICATED REF C. THEY HAVE
APPROVED CASE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.) USDEL
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BROUGHT GERMAN DEL UP-TO-DATE ON THE CASE BY
INDICATING THAT DURING U.S.-FRENCH BILATERAL DISCUSS-
IONS IN JUNE THE FRENCH STATED THAT THEIR PRESSES
WOULD DEFINITELY BE EXPORTED THIS COMING AUTUMN.
USDEL EXPLAINED THAT THE FRENCH HAD CONTINUED TO
REFUSE TO PROVIDE THE DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS ,
BROCHURES, ETC AS REQUESTED BY THE USG. DRAWING ON

THE INFORMATION IN REF D. USDEL THEN OUTLINED THE REASONS WHY THE USG CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH PRESSES ARE COMPARABLE TO THE CYRIL BATH PRESS IN THAT THEY CAN BE USED TO STRETCH FORM AIRCRAFT SKIN AS DEFINED UNDER IL 1081 AND THEY ARE OF A TYPE PRIMARILY USED IN THE AERONAUTIC INDUSTRY.

3. USDEL THEN EXPLAINED THAT THE EXPORT OF THE CYRIL BATH PRESS SHOULD BE APPROVED SINCE THIS WOULD HAVE A MINIMAL IMPACT IN STRATEGIC TERMS COMPARED WITH THE NINE FRENCH PRESSES WHICH ARE BEING EXPORTED. NOTING THE INFORMATION IN PARA 4, REF B, USDEL STATED THAT THE USG FELT THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY CONTINUING TO PRESS THE SOVIETS FOR END-USE INFORMATION OR FOR THE GUARANTEES THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED SINCE THE SOVIETS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE SAME KIND OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE USE OF THE PRESS IN THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY.

4. ON THE PROCEDURAL ISSUE, USDEL SUGGESTED THAT IF THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES AGREED WITH THE U.S. POSITION, THEY COULD ALLUDE TO BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. AS A REASON FOR REVISING THEIR POSITION TO AN APPROVAL WITHOUT CONDITIONS. USDEL, HOWEVER, STATED USG PREFERENCE OUTLINED PARA 3 REF C.
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5. DURING DISCUSSION GERMAN DEL NOTED THAT AT ONE STAGE HER AUTHORITIES CAME VERY CLOSE TO OBJECTING TO THIS CASE BUT FINALLY DECIDED ON AN APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS. SHE STATED THAT THE GERMANS HAD BEEN GREATLY SURPRISED BY THE U.S. REQUEST SINCE THEY HAD ALWAYS LOOKED UPON THE U.S. AS THE "CONSCIENCE OF COCOM." USDEL RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. REQUEST HAD TO BE ANALYZED IN LIGHT OF THE FRENCH EXPORT INVOLVING USOECD

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 28198

NINE PRESSES WITH A MUCH GREATER OVERALL STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. HE NOTED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NONE OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAD ATTEMPTED TO STOP THE FRENCH EXPORT OR EVEN TO PRESS THE FRENCH FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR PRESSES.

6. GERMAN DEL STATED THAT SHE WOULD PASS ON USDEL COMMENTS AND THE USG REQUEST TO HER AUTHORITIES, INDICATING THAT SHE WOULD REPORT THEIR RESPONSE AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED.

7. IN CALL ON UKDEL ON AUGUST 22, USDEL OUTLINED SAME ARGUMENTATION AND ASKED THAT UK LIFT RESERVE AND APPROVE CASE. IN RESPONSE UKDEL RECALLED THAT, AS INDICATED DURING U.S.-UK BILATERALS IN PARIS LAST APRIL, THE UK AUTHORITIES ARE NOT OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE STRATEGIC NATURE OF THE CYRIL BATH PRESS BECAUSE OF THE AGE OF ITS TECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, THEY ARE CONCERNED, HE SAID, THAT THE NORMAL PROCEDURES ARE APPLIED TO THIS CASE AS TO ALL COCOM EXCEPTION REQUESTS, THAT IS, THAT THE END-USE AND END-USER MUST BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIS ASSURES THAT THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE IN A POSITION TO DETERMINE THE STRATEGIC RISK
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INVOLVED. USDEL REMINDED THE UKDEL THAT THE USG HAS ALREADY INFORMED COCOM THAT IT BELIEVES THAT THE CYRIL BATH PRESS (AS WELL AS THE FRENCH PRESSES) WILL BE USED IN THE SOVIET AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY. UKDEL RESPONDED THAT THE VERY FACT THAT THE USG BELIEVES THAT THE END-USER STATED BY THE SOVIETS HAS NO KNOWN USE FOR THE CYRIL BATH PRESS AND IS THEREFORE PROBABLY NOT THE REAL END-USER SHOULD BE ENOUGH ON ITS OWN TO STOP THE EXPORT. HE ASKED WHAT WOULD BECOME OF COCOM PROCEDURES AND CONTROLS IF WE KNOWINGLY LET

THE SOVIETS PROVIDE COCOM COUNTRIES WITH OBVIOUSLY
INCORRECT INFORMATION TO JUSTIFY EXPORTS. UKDEL
EXPRESSED THE DOUBT THAT THE U.S. WOULD AGREE TO AN
EXCEPTION REQUEST FROM ANY OTHER COCOM COUNTRY
WITHOUT THE CORRECT END-USE OR END-USER INFORMATION.
USDEL REMINDED THE UKDEL THAT THE USG POSITION IN
THIS CASE HAD TO BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF THE MORE
SIGNIFICANT FRENCH EXPORT.

8. UKDEL STATED THAT HE WAS SURE THAT HIS AUTHORITIES
WOULD NOT TAKE A FINAL POSITION ON THE CASE UNTIL
END-USE INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE. UKDEL CALLED
USDEL BACK ON AUGUST 23 INDICATING THAT HE HAD
CHECKED WITH LONDON AND HIS AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO
INSIST ON END-USE INFORMATION. UKDEL STATED THAT
THIS WAS THE OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE USDEL APPROACH
ON THIS QUESTION.
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